

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

June 24, 2013

Public Health Nurses in the Department of Children and Family Services

Currently, two groups of Public Health Nurses (PHNs) work with Children's Social Workers (CSWs) in the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to ensure the health needs of vulnerable youth are met. One group from the Department of Public Health (DPH) serves those youths under the jurisdiction of the Dependency or Delinquency Courts. These 75 DPH-PHNs are supervised by a nurse manager and work with DCFS social workers to ensure the health needs of these youth are identified and met until court jurisdiction is terminated and the case is closed.

A second group of PHNs serves youth under DCFS supervision, but not yet under court jurisdiction. These 74 DCFS-PHNs serve youths with open emergency response referral, voluntary family maintenance or voluntary family reunification cases. The Chief Executive Officer's fiscal year (FY) 2013-14 Recommended Budget included \$1.6M to permanently hire 27 PHN's who are currently working under a pilot program at DCFS and funded by Title IV-E waiver funds. These 27 PHN's would be in addition to the existing 74 to serve the children on these critical front-end cases.

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MOTION

MOLINA	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____

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Whether working through the Dependency or Delinquency Courts or DCFS, these nearly 150 PHNs are a tremendous resource. It is critical that the County of Los Angeles (County) uniformly collect and maintain accurate medical, caseload and health outcome information on these PHN services. This information will help the County ensure the best possible use and distribution of their time and skills to protect the health and well-being of youth under the County's supervision or jurisdiction. It is also critical that DCFS social workers have clear and consistent guidance on when and how these PHNs should be utilized and a process that facilitates their quick deployment, when appropriate. Before proceeding to hire new PHNs, it is important to understand how the existing staff is being used.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Director of the Department of Public Health (DPH) to report back in writing to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days on the following:

- a) A description of the roles and responsibilities of Public Health Nurses (PHNs) working with youths under court jurisdiction and/or DCFS supervision, including the tasks that these PHNs currently perform;
- b) Copies of written policies and procedures that describe when, under what circumstances, and how PHNs are dispatched and should be engaged to serve at-risk youth under DCFS supervision or court jurisdiction, including when PHNs conduct in-person visits with a youth;
- c) Data on workloads, health outcomes, and number and type of consultations

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provided, all specified by office or region;

- d) Any other dashboard data that the departments currently collect to monitor and ensure high quality, efficiency, uniformity and productivity, and an adequate distribution of nursing resources countywide; and
- e) A description of the training that each department provides the PHNs, social workers, or other staff, on the functions and responsibilities of the PHNs, including copies of training schedules and curriculum.

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